

Society has busy summer

This past summer was a busy one for the Toledo Society for the Blind, with such activities as the picnic at the Toledo Zoo, the outing at Edgewater Park in Detroit, and the week at Camp Yukita on Lake Erie.

The family picnic at the zoo has been an annual event since 1957. This year, many attended on June 16 for an afternoon of tours around the zoo and Wonder Valley, followed by a late afternoon dinner.

July 21 was the date of the trip to Edgewater Amusement Park in Detroit. Although this was not a Society-sponsored activity, about 30 persons went on the trip, taking the bus



Swimming in Lake Erie was another activity in which many campers indulged.

to Detroit and enjoying rides and a picnic lunch at the park before returning that night.

Camp Yukita was the place to go in August, with about 50 blind campers attending.

During the week of August 16 to 21, campers enjoyed such things as boat rides, fishing trips, shopping excursions to nearby Port Clinton, guest day, talent night, and a trip to the Enchanted Forest.

Of course, as you can see from these pictures, campers still had plenty of time to "do their own thing" and enjoy their leisure time in whatever ways they wanted.

Camp personnel included Lyle Kirk, director; Mrs. Helen Zychowicz, housing and activities; and Mrs. Thompson, kitchen and dining room.

A good time was had by all of us who attended these activities, and we're all looking forward to them again next year!



Sighted friends accompany blind campers on excursions such as these to insure complete safety.



Blind campers set out for a walk in the wooded area around the cabins.



One of the activities particularly enjoyed by the younger campers was making sand molds for plaster plaques.

Falzone

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determined to make it.

Before his decision to make a career of insurance, Jim was employed at the Toledo Society for the Blind and was very active in its social programs, having had his first contact with the Society in 1942.

Although Jim attends functions at the Society every now and then, the primary part of his spare time is spent in other community activities.

Jim is a member of the Old Newsboys Goodfellows Association and an active member and Past President of the West Toledo Lions Club.

He also is a Boy Scout Merit Badge counselor, counseling the three citizenship merit badges, and is Second Vice Presi-

dent of the Northwestern Ohio Lions Eye Bank, which is now being organized.

Designed check

In 1966, he received a plaque from the Ohio Department of Public Welfare for helping design a check for blind people in which the lines and dollar signs are raised.

Of his success, Jim said, "It is very hard to name any specific organization or individual who has helped me along most. I feel the whole community has been responsible, especially my clients.

"Without the help of these people, no matter how hard I tried, I wouldn't have made it."

The fact that Jim has regained part of his vision might be written off as "good luck" by some—but everyone must agree that Jim's success is the well-deserved result of perseverance and hard work.

The Toledo Society For The Blind NEWS

A NEWS LETTER TO HELP YOU BECOME BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THIS RED FEATHER AGENCY

Vol. 8 No. 2—October, 1971

1819 Canton Avenue

Telephone 243-8239

BRAILLE SPORTS CAR RALLY SHIFTS SOCIETY'S FALL ACTIVITIES INTO GEAR

"Gentlemen (and ladies) start your engines." This was official starter, Mrs. Hugh Kirk, launching 25 cars on Sunday, October 10, as the Toledo Society for the Blind and the Northwest Ohio Region of Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) co-sponsored the Toledo Area's fourth annual Braille Sports Car Rally.

This event, as many co-sponsored by the Society with special volunteer groups, is designed to help take the blind person out of the isolations of his normally dark world into the flow of current activities—the best motivation for learning mobility and eventual rehabilitation.

In a Braille rally, the blind navigators are given a route sheet covering the course, written in Braille. The sighted driver then follows the blind person's directions.

Neither the sighted driver nor the blind navigator has any previous knowledge of the route to follow.

This is not a race, but points are made or lost by arriving at different checkpoints at the right times. If a team arrives at a checkpoint too early, they have exceeded the speed limit; if they arrive too late, they must have been lost!

The first car went off the line at exactly 1 p.m. After covering the route which ran mostly through Monroe County, Michigan, the cars returned to the Society building later in the



afternoon for refreshments and the awarding of trophies to the winners.

This year's winners from the Society were John Farley, first place; Josephine Brooks, second place; and Adeline Opelt, third place.

The rally is open to all recognized members of any sports car club, who pay a \$5 entry fee which is donated to the Society's Eye Screening program for young children.

Time to order your 1971 holiday cards

Although it is only October, the holiday season will be here before we know it.

And, with the holidays comes the wishing of seasons greetings to our friends and relatives. This year, as in seasons past, the Society is offering you a selection of three beautiful holiday cards. You can order these attractive cards in any quantity, imprinted with your name if you wish.

Society for the Blind holiday cards offer "Seasons Greetings" and something more. They represent your contribution to the Society's many activities, the special, "extra-curricular" programs which are not provided for by United Appeal funds. Among these are summer camp, eye screening for young people, the community medical clinic at St. Vincent Hospital, family nights, help for blind bowlers,

and the annual visit from Santa with gifts for our blind children.

The cards are easy to order. Just fill out the enclosed postpaid order form and drop it in the mail.

You will not receive a bill or invoice from us for these cards. We only ask that you think of our needs and make a contribution to the Society. Anything over the amount you usually pay for your holiday cards is tax deductible.

If you wish, the cards may also be imprinted with your name, but please allow \$3.00 for this extra service.

And you can feel especially good about sending these lovely cards, knowing that your contribution has given the Society the opportunity to continue these important activities.

Sign Posts

Two more Braille transcribers, Mrs. E. K. Holden, Brookside Road and Mrs. Harry Bennett, Holland-Sylvania, have been certified by successfully completing the Library of Congress course under the instruction of Mrs. Mervin Levey at Collingwood Avenue Temple and Mrs. Robert Knisely at Washington Congregational Church.

Mr. Robert Knisely, president of Toledo Parents of Blind Children, Sylvania, Ohio, is also a certified transcriber. He has just been appointed to the nominating committee of the National Braille Association. This is the first time Toledo has had a representative at the national level.

The two groups are non-sectarian and have no official connection with either the temple or the church. They work together producing Braille manuscripts for local blind people with special emphasis on textbooks for high school students.

The transcriber's course takes an average of a year to complete. More transcribers are always needed since the groups try to meet requests for Braille material promptly. For further information, contact either Mrs. Levey or Mrs. Knisely.

* * *

Linda Miller graduated from Scott High School in June and entered The University of Toledo to study sociology this fall.

She wants to thank all at the Society who helped her achieve her goal—Mrs. Dick Balduf and her daughter for reading for her, and Mrs. Mervin Levey for translating the textbooks into Braille, and helping to get readers.

* * *

A new stereophonic recorder, head phones and speakers have been recently installed in the Mobility area of the Society, and are being used to develop and improve each student's ability to localize, identify, and discriminate between various sounds.

The three most important aids to the blind person are sound, touch, and smell.

Sound is the most important for foot travel. Through the use of this equipment the student will learn to understand and make the maximum use of his sense of sound.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Skip Hargrove are now taking care of our permanent residence for out-of-town clients at 813 Ontario Street.

There have been about 10 clients who have stayed at the residence while taking training at the Society since the Hargroves began in May.

And, in addition to their duties involved in maintaining the residence, both Mr. and Mrs. Hargrove do friendly visiting for the Society and Mr. Hargrove attends The University of Toledo.



Mr. and Mrs. Skip Hargrove are now taking care of the Society's residence on Ontario Street.

Legally blind Jim Falzone gives up white cane

In June of this year, Jim Falzone did what every blind person would like to do—he turned in his white cane because he no longer needed it.

Jim was born with a disease which caused his blindness in early infancy, and, although he never lost his sight totally, Jim was legally blind and had a great deal of difficulty getting around.

Then, last January, his left cornea burst, and a transplant was done—solely to save the vision Jim already had in his left eye.

The remarkable thing is that, in addition to saving the sight Jim had, the corneal transplant actually improved his vision.

Care no longer needed

And in June, Jim's eye had improved so much that he no longer needed his white cane.

Of course, this doesn't mean that Jim now has 20/20 vision or that he can see well enough to drive a car.

He can, however, make his own way walking down streets and on buses.

He can read newspapers and telephone books. "And it doesn't look like I'm reading with my nose anymore," he said.

Being a bachelor, added vision has another advantage for Jim. He said, "Now I can pick out my own girls!"

Reads small type

The fact that Jim can now read small type is very important to him in his career. He is an insurance salesman, and the small print on policies is no longer a reading problem for him.

Jim is affiliated with the Boyd Montgomery Insurance Agency, where he writes fire and casualty policies, and Columbus Mutual, where he writes life insurance.

His career in insurance, however, is not just a recent result of his gain in vision.

In 1958, Jim passed the General Insurance Examination for fire and casualty by studying on his own from state manuals furnished by the Department of Insurance. In 1961, he passed the test for life insurance.

He tells his clients, "You name it and I'll write it."

Cassette tape recorder

Although Jim's vision has improved greatly, he still uses a cassette tape recorder extensively in work with his clients. He can attach it to the phone at home or office to record material, always telling the person he's talking to that he's using it.

"The thing represents a pencil and paper to me," he said.

Jim is currently studying at night to be a Chartered and Property Casualty Underwriter, having started in September last year at The University of Toledo's Community and Technical College.

The State Bureau of Service for the Blind pays reader service (someone to do paperwork related to the course) for him, but he pays for his own textbooks.

Six more years

Jim has six more years of studying ahead of him, and he's

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Insurance salesman Jim Falzone uses his cassette tape recorder "like a pencil and paper" in dealing with his clients.



Walter H. Cline
Lawyer & Insurance



Thomas R. Day
Vice President
Willis Day Storage Co.



J. Martin Ecker
Retired—CPA



John Goerlich
President, Merit Industries, Inc.
Director, Questor Corporation



Robert D. Kiess, M.D.
Ophthalmologist



William A. Marti
Administrative Vice President
Canteen Service Co. of Toledo

GIVE WHERE IT COUNTS

The Toledo Society for the Blind is a Red Feather Agency handling all the eye problems that come to it from the area served by the Toledo United Appeal.

As a local agency, we are particularly fortunate to have a dedicated—and very involved Board of Trustees. These long-time Toledo residents serve without pay or expense money. So if you wish to know more about the Society and the work it is doing, any one of these people will be glad to answer your questions.

How you can help?

If you are interested in eye conservation and in helping those with sight problems, you can do so by making a contribution, either now or in your will. Contributions to the Toledo Society for the Blind are tax deductible.

Give—but give wisely

There are many efficiently run charities, but particularly at this time of year, the Better Business Bureau warns there are dozens of charitable requests that pour into Toledo from all over the world. Many of these are difficult to check on (as mentioned in the September 17th warning in the Toledo Times about necktie mailings) and we constantly receive inquiries about various "boiler room" telephone solicitations that offer nearly everything from soup to nuts in the name of some usually unknown service organization. And as noted syndicated columnist, Sydney J. Harris, noted in the same September 17th issue of the Toledo Times, "The impassioned and most appealing are for the blind." The reason is obvious because the blind—particularly the old and difficult to employ—represent one of our most pressing social problems. We must concur with Mr. Harris as he warns, "... many welfare agencies are more concerned with taking care of their own needs than in providing for the people they serve."

To be sure your contribution reaches those in need, we suggest you give to your home town agency where your money is handled by local people whom you know and trust—not funneled into expensive money raising promotions or high salaries for promoters. As the BBB says, "GIVE . . . BUT GIVE WISELY."

Incidentally, the cost of this newsletter has always and is being paid with other than United Appeal money. Photographs are taken by various friends of the Society who have never charged us a penny!—And the copy is written by the staff.



Lyle O. Kirk
Executive Director
Toledo Society for the Blind



Mrs. John G. Meszaros
Executive Assistant
Community Medical Eye Clinic



Louis Paine
Retired—Insurance



Frank G. Pletz
Sr. Vice President
Toledo Trust Co.



Franklin Schroeder
Vice President
Clark Dodge & Co., Inc.



Mrs. William D. Thomas
Coordinator
Eye Screening Program



Charles E. Trauger
President
United Savings & Loan
Association



Richard Vining
Retired
Blind Representative



Carl F. Weissenberger
Chairman of the Board
C. F. Weissenberger, Inc.